

ENGARDE

An aerial, high-angle photograph of an F-16 fighter jet in flight. The jet is positioned centrally, viewed from above, showing its wings, fuselage, and cockpit. It is carrying several missiles and a large pod under its wings. The background consists of a vast, rugged mountain range with significant snow cover, stretching towards the horizon under a clear sky. The perspective is from directly above the aircraft, looking down through the canopy area.

A EF RECAP



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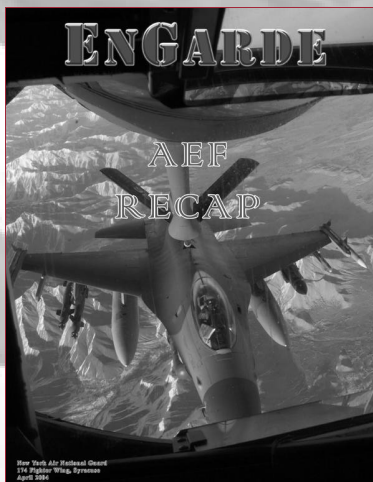


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About The Cover

OVER AFGHANISTAN -- A KC-135 Strato-tanker refuels an F-16 Fighting Falcon on Nov. 29 that is supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The F-16 is from the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing at Syracuse. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Suzanne M. Jenkins)

Vision Statement

Our Vision is a world class fighter wing comprised of diverse individuals powered to meet all challenges, and win. We accept nothing less.

Mission Statement

Provide combat ready personnel, aircraft, and equipment prepared for world wide deployment. To deter or attack and destroy enemy surface and airborne forces in support of joint operations; and to support civil authorities at the direction of the governor.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Iraq, one year later. This first week of April marks the anniversary of jubilant crowds greeting U.S. troops in Baghdad and who will never forget the images of the Iraqi people toppling the 40-foot statue of Saddam. These are not the images of victory but events that we mark for time keeping as the global war on terrorism continues. Late last year we saw the 138 Fighter Squadron successfully return from a deployment "Down Range" in support of Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. As you read this article, recognize that we have members deployed to various locations at home and abroad. In fact, this past month alone, I had the privilege to welcome home members of the 174FW Medical Group and say farewell to airmen of the 274ASOS. Folks, the war to sustain a fledgling Democracy while stamping out terrorism continues. Presently, there are about 120,000 U.S. forces in Iraq. Of that total, the Guard and Reserve troops number 50,000. I make this point because at the start of the war one year ago on 15 March 03, the total was roughly 35,000. The active duty has developed reliance and a confidence in the citizen soldier. Our deployed footprint from Hancock Field may be small in numbers, but essential for mission accomplishment. Remember that, as we are always just a phone call away from being asked to step up.

"Things have never been more like the way they are today in history."

United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower

April will be a busy month as we have a deployment and an inspection scheduled. The 174FW will be deploying to a location very familiar to some of our more senior members, Patrick AFB, Florida. For many years, the 174FW would journey south in the early months of the year to conduct flying training that would otherwise be hindered by the upstate New York elements. This "Snowbird" deployment for training had an additional benefit and at first look you would think of the obvious...Florida in the win-

ter! But I will add another. Although I had not arrived on Hancock Field by the time the deployments to Patrick had ended, I will tell you that it was still very much a part of the culture and heritage for the men and woman of the 174FW. Deployments accomplish much more than just flying training: they are the essential building blocks that develop unit teamwork, cohesion, flexibility and focus on mission accomplishment. They also provide the feedback that tells the members and the commanders that we are ready, reliable and relevant. In addition to the deployment, we will also be hosting an Air National Guard directed ESOHCAMP Inspection team. This team will inspect Hancock Field for compliance in environmental, ground safety, occupational hazard and airfield management. We have a very proactive program and excellent managers, so I am looking forward to showing off our facility.

In closing, I would like to recognize the recent retirement of Chaplain, Lt. Col. (Ret) Paul Mathis, Jr. He has served proudly since 1970 and with the 174FW since 1982. Father Mathis stood side by side with us at home and overseas while deployed in harms way. He married a few, baptized a few, buried a few, and saved a few. Although he would never take credit, his Hancock Field Helping Hands Program has assisted countless families of deployed unit members who were in need. He has been a frequent contributor to the Engarde and his written words of encouragement and spiritual guidance will be missed, but not nearly as much as his presence. Serving seems to come easily to him as everyone who comes in his contact will attest. His approachable manner and sense of humor will be forever missed, but not forgotten. We wish him well...thanks Padre!



Col. Kevin Bradley
174FW
Vice Commander

Biography of New Command Chief

By Chief Master Sergeant Mark Atkinson, 174FW Command Chief

Command Chief Mark Atkinson graduated from N. Syracuse High School in 1974. Upon graduation I immediately enlisted in the USAF and attended basic training. I then went on to Crew Chief School and was appointed a Red Rope Student Leader. My first assignment was Loring AFB Maine as a B-52 Crew Chief. In 1976, I transferred to the 174FW and was assigned to the Weapons shop. While in Weapons I worked in Weapons Loading, Weapons Release and on the Lead Standardization Crew. After Weapons I worked in Quality Control as an Inspector. After Quality Control I transferred to the Munitions Maintenance and Storage Area. I then transferred back to Weapons as the Weapons Release Shop Chief, then the Weapons Supervisor, and eventually Wing Weapons Manager. I then was selected as the Sortie Generation Chief. After this position I became Wing Ground Safety Manager. After four years I was selected for current position as the Operations Superintendent. These positions cover thirty years.

During this time frame I also worked in the Base Fire

Department as a Volunteer Fire Fighter. I am also a former board member and current member of the All Services Club. I was a past member of the MWR committee. I served as the coordinator for the Wing Integrated Combat Turnaround program. I was the Risk Management implementation program manager for the Wing. In 1990 I deployed with the 174th in support of Desert Storm and worked as the Weapons Flight-Line Supervisor. I am currently a member of the 174th Base Honor Guard. I was also a member of the NCO Academy Graduates Association.

I am a life member of the VFW and a member of the American Legion. I am also on the Onondaga County Veterans Committee. I attended Columbia College and received an AA degree and are currently working on a Safety Management AA degree from the Community College of the Air Force and a BA degree from Columbia College. I now serve on several committees in the Village of N. Syracuse. Recently I was elected as N. Syracuse Village Trustee.





Twenty-Two Years of Wonder

By Father R. Paul Mathis, Lt Col, Wing Chaplain



Looking over my first twelve years of education, there was one particular teacher who stood out above all the rest. She taught American History and encouraged us to read current events. It was through reading the newspaper for current events that I encountered, in 1959, one of the world's more exciting personalities. He was a man by the name of Dag Hammarskjold. He was Secretary-General to the United Nations from 1953 through 1961. Unfortunately, he died in a September 18, 1961 plane crash. His book, *Markings*, revealed a very gifted, confident, caring man that was clearly growing toward God.

One of his statements from his book has made a lasting impression on me. He wrote, "God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illuminated by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason."

Wonder is one of those jumping-off gifts that I think brings new life to each day of our lives. Too many people think of religion as the "do's and don'ts" of life, always commanding us, but I think wonder in all the mysteries of nature, the Bible, and in other people, call us to the holy. We all are called to see the world with renewed eyes each day and it is the quest for truth in wonder that

has and continues to set the stage for me, especially over the last 22 years that I have served as your chaplain.

Yes, I have done many baptisms, weddings, and funerals over the years. These occasions have cemented me to you in very profound ways and have revealed to me the mystery of truth that words can't even touch. But of all the things that chaplains do, and of all the things that are important, I think the "ministry of presence" is the most essential. To look in the eyes of the men and women in this unit who are all committed to the same truths, values, and freedoms, and see the unique wonder of life inherent in each individual, has resulted in great moments of joy, renewed hope, and unspeakable sacrificial love.

As I retire from this position as Wing Chaplain, I am drawn to the words found in *Les Miserables*: "Take my hand and lead me to salvation, take my love for love is everlasting, and remember the truth that once was spoken, to love another person is to see the face of God."

Thank you for the profound privilege of letting me see your faces over the last 22 years. To me, they indeed make up the very face of God, and will always call me to a sense of wonder, mystery, and truth.

May God Bless all of you!
R. Paul Mathis



Chaplain, Lt. Col. R. Paul Mathis goes through his pre-flight checks prior to his "fini" flight with 174th commander Col. Tony Basile.



Family Support

By Chris Muszynski, Family Support Office

Farewell

I will be leaving the Family Readiness program this month and would like to applaud all of you for your support for our Guard Families everyday. The support for this program has been outstanding and I encourage everyone to continue the good work! It's been a pleasure and memorable experience to be a part of this program. For emergencies and continued support please contact Lt Col Mary Jo Timpano at 454-6139.

Air Force One Source

Real Help, Anytime, anywhere with a new program called Air Force One Source. No matter who you are, no matter what kind of issues you are dealing with, Air Force One Source is designed to help you find the support, advice and resources you need. No question is too small, no issue is too big. All calls answered live 24 hours, 7 days a week provided in partnership with Family Support Centers and other agencies. All Air and Army National Guard members are eligible for this program, free and will provide a customized response to whatever your needs are. Call 1-800-707-5784 or go to www.airforceonesource.com (userID: airforce password: ready). See your first Sergeants for further details.

The Shades of Green

The Shades of Green (at the Walt Disney World) Resort, will open its newly refurbished military recreation resorting phases throughout March 2004, with the first phase beginning today. This resort has been temporarily closed since March 2002, when all operations were moved to Disney's Contemporary Resort. Shades of Green is owned and operated by the United States Army Community and Family Support. Located near the Palm and Magnolia golf courses, it provides another affordable resort option for eligible Guests and their families on Walt Disney World Resort property. Eligible Guests include active and retired military personnel, members of the National Guard and Reserves, Department of Defense civilians and their families. The Walt Disney World Resort are delighted to share the magic of Disney with even more service men and women through Shades of Green. For general information on Shades of Green, visit www.shadesofgreen.org or call 1-888-593-2242.

Thank you, Chris, for everything you've done!

“Exploring Hancock Field”

By Major Chuck Hutson, Base Comptroller



Many of you are aware that Hancock Field sponsors Exploring Posts. The Exploring program is part of the Learning for Life Division of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). In fact, three posts are hosted by the Base--Post 174 (Aviation Careers), Post 201 (Military Careers), and Post 203 (Fire Service Careers). All Exploring posts are co-ed and members must have completed the eighth-grade or be 14 ½ years old. The posts meet on a regular basis, no less than monthly from October through July each year. This is a banner year for Hancock Field exploring—having 70 Explorers participating in this year’s program.

Some of the highlights in a typical Exploring program year is the Base Tour, usually in November. Many of you have hosted tours of your section to the Explorers. Some sections have provided whole programs, lasting two to three hours and covering entire subject matter areas. One of the program’s staples has become a tour of NEADS to include an unclassified 9-11 briefing and tour of the operations floor. A very fruitful event is the Annual R.O.T.C./Service Academy Night, where Liaison Officers from each of the Service Academies and R.O.T.C. programs sell their pitch to the Explorers and families. It’s one of the most valuable events offered throughout the year and warrants a thank you to Lt. Col. Armand Gabriele and Lt. Col. Nicholas Vero who have historically organized and chaired the entire event.



174/201/203 consistent participation, all three posts were recognized in 2003 with the Exploring Community Service Award from the Hiawatha Seaway Council.

I thank all of the Hancock Field family for its unwavering support of the Exploring program. I assure you, all of the Post 174/201/203 Explorers thank you for the insights you provide of real people doing real jobs. In many cases, you provide a look inside unique career fields that many teenagers would not otherwise be exposed to. A special thanks goes to the 174th Vehicle Operations Flight. Chief Master Sgt. Dale Cuny and the Vehicle Operations section have consistently supported the Exploring program with all transportation requirements.

Many can agree that as a community-based force, the Air National Guard, particularly our very own Wing, benefits from partnering with agencies such as the Boy Scouts of America. In our case, not only are young folks exposed to the Air National Guard, but also so are their families, friends, and relatives. Sharing a peek into our small military community with enthusiastic, young adults is just one the many community partnerships that is critical to every militia. It is great to see the reaction of folks, when they realize just how relevant the Wing’s day-to-day operations are to National Defense.

As a BSA entity, the program promotes service to others and as such the Explorers partner with the 174th in the Salvation Army Food Distribution Day each year at the OnCenter. Based on Posts

If you ever would like to offer a program topic from your section, please call me. If you have teenagers who may be interested, sign-ups will be in October 2005.

The Impact of the Lautenberg Amendment on the Guard & Reserve

By Lt. Col. Joseph E. Lamendola, Staff Judge Advocate

The Staff Judge Advocate of the Air Force recently sent out to the field policy guidelines as they relate to the revisions to the Lautenberg Amendment.

The new policy is a powerful tool to combat domestic violence, since it makes it a felony for those with convictions for domestic violence to “ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms or ammunition”.

The Lautenberg Amendment applies to all firearms, both privately owned and those that the AF, ANG, and Reserves provide to personnel to carry out their duties. This amendment has serious implications on Security Forces. Not only do Security Forces carry firearms in the performance of their duties, they also typically oversee armories where personnel assigned to the installation store firearms.

The Lautenberg Amendment specifies that misdemeanor domestic violence convictions are included. AF policy has expanded that to include felony convictions and general and special courts-martial convictions. It specifically precludes Article 15 (NJP) actions.



Domestic violence offenses are broadly defined. They include those offenses committed by a current or former spouse, parent or guardian of the victim; by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common; by a person who is cohabitating or has cohabited with a victim as a spouse, parent, or guardian; or by a person similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim. To qualify as domestic violence, the actual or attempted use of physical force or the threatened use of a deadly weapon must be the factual basis for the offense.

The policy clearly states that Commanders and Supervisors are to make determinations about whether a particular conviction qualifies under the statute. The guidance also requires that all military personnel certify that they do not have a qualifying domestic conviction before being allowed to handle firearms.

The intent of the amendment is a deterrent to domestic violence. The deterrent effect can only be realized if those consequences are well known. The potential effects of the amendment clearly merit focused attention.

Mission Complete: 174th AEF 2003

By Lt. Col. Tom Owens, 174th Operations Group Commander



The 174th FW completed its recent Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) tasking in an outstanding manner.

The unit integrated seamlessly into the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW) with an excellent hand-off from our fellow ANG warriors from the 192nd FW in Richmond, VA. We exceeded the mission objectives we set out to accomplish. It was a tremendous team effort by not only unit members but their families too! We sent people, equipment and jets half way around the world to fight in the Global War on Terrorism and returned everyone and everything safely. Job well done!

The missions that the 138th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron (138th EFS) was tasked with were primarily Close Air Support (CAS) missions. Shortly after our arrival in theater the unit was not only tasked for missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) but we began to fly in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) too. Fortunately the ground work and success of a couple missions to OEF flown by the 192nd FW, who had just "broke the code" on the dual theater operations, made it a little easier on our unit. The sortie durations were the longest this unit (or most any fighter unit for that matter) has ever encountered during sustained operations. This put added strain on not only the 138th EFS but also on our maintainers who were integrated into the 379th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and were the F16 Aircraft Maintenance Unit (AMU).

Commanded by Major John O'Connor and Major John Balbierer who split the deployment, our F16 AMU performed exceptionally! The reality of wartime tasking set in immediately with 24/7 operations and the departure of jets that would not return for upwards of 12 hours. The urgency was heightened ever more when shortly after our arrival in theater the call for munitions became increasingly more frequent. The tasking was met, exceeded and then outpaced with the standard excellence that is the 174th FW: outstanding sortie generation to meet daily tasking, all 12 jets phased – 10+ by Syracuse, a tough and talented Mainte-

nance Recovery Team sent into Pakistan to accomplish an unplanned task in record time, the list of examples of how the F16 AMU stepped up the tempo to save American, Coalition and civilian lives goes on!

As pilots we would connect to the ground troops on each and every mission, on the radio, with our targeting pods, with our Night Vision Goggles (NVGs) or our ordnance when they called for it. But there were other connections. Back at Al Udeid, we lived and essentially fought the fight from a distance with respect to where the ground troops operated but we were uniquely situated at Al Udeid to interact with them daily as they all transited through the base at some point. I wrote the following in the "Desert Digest" at about the midpoint:

The troops in theater are really depending on those jets 24/7 as they witness first hand and help shape on the ground, up close and in person a new democracy. We are all making great, healthy history here. Keep up the fantastic work!

The reminder was supplementary; first hand stories were everywhere to be heard by those that had just been there: by our Flight Docs, the C-130 crews and C-17 crews and of course the front line troops that passed through the base chow halls everyday.

The facts and figures speak great volumes for what this unit did in accomplishing very demanding combat tasking, even the bombs and bullets are significant since nothing had been dropped from a fighter since May 03. Before the unit departed Syracuse, I qualified our mission objectives to not only return everyone and everything safely from a challenging combat zone but to also bring the package back in better shape than when it deployed. 174th Fighter Wing, you did that! What a great way to top off 2003. Thank you for your awesome and heroic service in fighting our nation's war and defending *Freedom*. Everyone helped greatly in the capture of a brutal tyrant but much more importantly, you all helped save many lives, especially American lives!

174th Fighter Wing AEF 2003 Mission & Facts:

**Mission – Global Air & Space Power
People – Excellence & Combat Experience
Core Competence – Fighter Employment & More**

Total Bombs Employed:	Total Sorties / Flying Hours:
–AOR Sorties: 295	–GBU-12: 18
–AOR Hours: 1845	–GBU-31: 7
–Redeploy Sorties: 24	–Bullets: 100 Round
–Redeploy Hours: 210	



Lt. Col. Tom Owens flying over Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom



OVER AFGHANISTAN -- A pair of F-16 Fighting Falcons fly a patrol mission while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom on Nov. 29. The aircraft are from the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing at Syracuse. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Suzanne M. Jenkins)

AEF from the Maintenance Perspective

By Maj. John Balbierer, Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Commander



December 2003 saw the successful completion of another AEF deployment in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. All told, 95 days were spent in deployment status between the 174FW and 192FW (from Richmond, VA) that both shared responsibility during the October to December time frame. As always, the Syracuse team leaned forward to support the extended duration of the trip with many of our volunteers in place for 45 days, and in some cases the full 95. The 174th's participation in this AEF cycle represented the largest deployment of maintainers and equipment since Operation Desert Shield in 1991 and once again demonstrated our contribution and impact to the total force concept.

From the time we hit the ground until the end of the trip, ops tempo was high for all personnel, including munitions and maintenance back shops. There was always work to be done and as a result many long days (12 hours plus) were spent supporting the mission. We were fortunate though to have good facilities for accomplishing all of our extended maintenance actions. The quick reaction areas (QRA) built to withstand almost a direct attack and designed with airlock capabilities for chemical/biological field conditions, offered much needed protection from the sun and heat.

They also provided a great base for maintenance operations and were a vast improvement over what the unit had adapted to during past deployments. The only drawback was less than optimal accommodations for bathroom/washrooms, which was addressed as to leave the facilities better than we accepted them for future deployers.

All the hard work and professionalism of 174th did not go unnoticed by our active duty peers and deployed base leadership. The Maintenance Group Commander recognized the 174th main-

tainers on multiple occasions for having a "good act" and taking care of business with dedicated mission focus, expertise, and always acting in a professional manner. During our time in theater, we definitely had a large presence and impact in multiple areas across the base and through our combined experience, greatly contributed to the 379 AEW's success.

As a testimony to our impact, the numbers speak for themselves. We produced 288 combat sorties with over 1697 hours flown on Syracuse jets with a 70.2 percent mission capable (MC) rate. In addition, 10 of the 12 jets assigned were put through comprehensive phase inspections while under Syracuse control. Bomb builders and loaders efforts directly contributed to the successful delivery of 27 bombs (20 GBU-12 & 7 GBU-31/JDAM), and 89 20MM rounds.

The success of this deployment represents an outstanding accomplishment in a long line of achievements for the 174th and is another great example of the type of people that make up this unit. Your patriotism is obvious and your continued efforts to excel are greatly appreciated and will help propel the 174FW to

it's a rightful place among the best Fighter Wings in history. Our pay off of course from this deployment, was knowing that our efforts helped save lives of coalition forces on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan where hostile fire was a daily occurrence. The war on terror will continue in the years to come, and throughout it all the 174FW will always answer the call to protect and defend our great nation.



First Sergeant Joe Healey greeting the SECAF



What It Takes To Turn A Jet!

Munitions



OIC: Capt Mike Brunner
NCOIC: Senior Master Sgt. Chris Cushman
No. people assigned: 25
Existing Vacancies: 19
Location on Base: Bldg 800 southwest corner of base

Job Description: Receives inspects stores maintains troubleshoots and delivers guided and unguided munitions. This covers but is not limited to AI M 9 and AIM 120 missiles, 20mm gun rounds, and chaff/flare for countermeasures. Major bomb munitions include the MK82 (500LB) and MK84 (2000lb), GBU-12s, and the Joint Directed Attack Munition (JDAM). The munitions career field utilizes computerized inventory tracking and maintenance programs to ensure all items are inspected and accounted for regularly. They also maintain all munitions trailers and support equipment used to build-up and deliver munitions assets.

School Requirements: 44 days Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX

Special Incentives: GI Bill Kicker, \$5000 Enlistment or Re-enlistment Bonus and the Student Loan Repayment Program.

If interested call Senior Master Sgt. Cushman @ 454-6463

"What it takes to turn a Jet" is a monthly EnGarde feature that highlights various areas on base. This project is intended to educate all of us to the various and numerous functions required in launching a jet.

Squadron Operations Center



OIC: Lt Col. Chris Pelozza
NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Lee Nietzel
No. People Assigned: 7 (3-1C0X2, 2-1C0X1, 2-1C3X1)
Existing Vacancies: 2-1C3X1 Command Post
Location on Base: Bldg 643 Operations

Job Description: As a squadron operations controller you are responsible for coordinating with aircrews, air traffic control, and various base agencies for the safe operation of aircraft through the national and international airspace system. Information includes flight plans, Flight Information Publications, aeronautical charts and maps, Notice to Airmen, local airfield and navigational aid status, and weather information.

School Requirements: 6 Weeks

Special Incentives: None

If interested contact: Staff Sgt. Lee Nietzel x214

Security Forces Journeyman



OIC: Capt. Richard Dix
NCOIC: Master Sgt. Michael Ramsey
No. People Assigned: 45
Existing Vacancies: 7
Location on Base: Bldg 174

Job Description: The Security Forces (SF) Career Field performs force protection duties. SF duties require the use of force, up to and including the use of deadly force. SF duties ensure combat capability through the functions of installation security, nuclear and conventional weapon systems and resources security, air base defense, law enforcement, information security, military working dog activities, and combat arms training and maintenance. Security Forces participate in contingency operations. Personnel in this career field will be deployed and employed in sensitive or hostile environments created by terrorism, sabotage, nuclear, chemical, biological, or conventional warfare. Security Force members perform the military police function within the Air Force.

School Requirements: 10 weeks, Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX

Special Incentives: Enlistment Kicker and \$5,000 Bonus and SLRP

If interested contact: Master Sgt Joel Graham, 454- 6638



February was African-American history month and our featured guest speaker at our Comrel luncheon was Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. (Ret.) Clarence Dart. (From Left to Right) Maj. John Balbierer, Lt. Col. Charles Dorsey, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Clarence Dart, Col. Tony Basile, and Col. Robert Knauff.

Education and Training News

By Master Sgt Rosemarie Murray, Education NCOIC



Members who would like to take advantage of college level testing now have two choices to complete an examination. For those who wish to take a computer based test, E-CBT's will be available at Columbia College. Columbia College is located at Hancock Field. Personnel may contact the Education and Training office or their unit training managers for a list of guidelines requiring the registration and administration of these tests. Beginning in April 2004, the Education and Training office will resume administration of paper based DANTES/CLEP tests. With two choices available, why let the opportunity to earn college credit pass you by? Please call the Education and Training office at extensions 147, 148 or 409 if you have any questions. ✦

Spring into Safety!

By SMSgt Al Nall, 174th Fighter Wing Safety Office



The days are getting longer, the snow is melting, and spring is just around the corner. Between the time I am writing this and the time you read it, I am convinced we will have received at least one more parting snowstorm. Please continue to drive defensively during the change of seasons and of course throughout the year. It's also a good time to start thinking about spring training. Not baseball, but safety. The 174th Fighter Wing will sponsor its first Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) approved Basic Rider Course (BRC) April 23-24. The BRC consists of classroom instruction and practical training on an approved rider range. Class size will be limited to 12 persons.

SMSgt. Chris Cushman and TSgt. Kevin Brody are fully trained rider coaches and will guide participants through the course. Riders will need to use their own motorcycles. This training will be provided to all military personnel who choose to ride a motorcycle on base. In addition to attending the BRC, riders should always practice personal risk management.

- Travel only on roads or trails your motorcycle is designed for. 🏍️
- Check the weather and plan accordingly. Risks on motorcycles increase significantly in inclement weather or darkness. 🌧️
- Avoid traveling in groups if you are inexperienced. 🚫

- Wear PPE! Riders should wear helmets, eye protection, over-the-ankle boots, long pants, full-fingered gloves and a reflective vest. 🛡️
- Take frequent breaks on long trips to avoid fatigue. 😴

Warmer weather also prompts spring cleaning and home repair projects, which account for many off-duty mishaps. Accidents often happen because of improper use of tools, chemical/cleaning agents, or performing work out of your range of experience. If you are planning on sprucing up your home or doing repair work, be sure to equip yourself with knowledge and the proper tools required for the task. Think about what it is you are doing before hand, to save yourself an unscheduled trip to the emergency room later on. Before you begin any project, please consider the following:

- On average about 220,000 people make emergency room visits due to ladder mishaps each year. 🪜
- More than 87,000 people are treated annually in hospital emergency rooms for lawn mower injuries - casualties of burns, dismemberment, electric shock, falls and thrown objects. 🌿
- Another 76,000 people sustain injuries from power garden tools such as trimmers, lawn edgers and pruners. 🪚

Select the right height ladder for your task. Far too many accidents occur because of ladders that were too short for a job. Place ladders on firm level surfaces and insure all rungs are clean and that the ladder is in good condition. Never climb on a slippery or shaky ladder. Use wood or fiberglass ladders when working around electrical equipment, and be sure to check for overhead power lines before you climb.

Always wear sturdy shoes (not sneakers or sandals) when mowing your lawn. Be aware of stones, gravel and loose debris that may have accumulated on your lawn over the winter. Use eye protection, when mowing, edging, or using a weed trimmer. Just because your mower has headlights does not mean nighttime is okay for lawn care operations. You should also allow wet lawns to dry before mowing.

Get plenty of information before starting any project. Read (that's right I said read) the manufacturer's instructions and/or use and care booklet. Plan your work, and then work your plan. Depending on the task, you can get books from the library or a bookstore, take a course, or have someone who has experience assist you. Following these simple precautions will go a long way in keeping you and your family safe as we spring forth into the season.



The Air Force Portal

By Chief Master Sgt. Ted Mosley,
Communications Flight

Back in December of last year General Jumper put out a request to have all Air Force personnel (to include the Guard and Reserve), register on the AF Portal web site by no later than April of this year. (<https://my.af.mil>) His reason for requesting this was to eliminate all the other passwords we have to use to get to all the mil. web sites, i.e. my pay, and VMPF. We will then have only one password to remember. The catch to this process is that when you go to register on the Portal, you have to do it on a mil domain computer with your own e-mail account. If you do not have an account on base, you can get one by requesting it on a form 16 through your supervisor. If you do not have an e-mail account and fail to request one, you will not be able to check your pay, W-2s, or your personnel records at some date in the near future. So take the time to accomplish this. This is the way of the future. Any questions should be directed to the Comm. Help Desk at X 536. ✦

Time to Adjust Withholding Taxes

By Maj. Chuck Hutson, Comptroller



Reduction rates effective 1 Jan 2004:
Medicare Tax Rate is 1.45%
Social Security (FICA) Tax Rate is 6.2%
Combined Rate is 7.65%

Naturally, federal and state tax withholding rates are based on your W-4 election. If you paid a large amount in federal taxes or will receive a large tax refund, it may be time for you to process a W-4 to change your withholding amounts. This can be accomplished for military members and technicians via MyPay at www.dfas.mil/mypay. One very useful resource to help determine W-4 is the "Withholding Calculator" at www.irs.gov. By typing in some simple information from your most recent pay statements and 2003 tax returns, you can determine exactly how to file your W-4 form(s). The process only takes about 10 minutes. ✦

Base Announcements

CY 2004 UTA Themes

03-04 Apr 04	ESOH CAMP Prep/Deployment
01-02 May 04	Phase II ORE W/ Limited ATSO
05-06 Jun 04	Phase I ORE (walk thru)/Ancillary Training
10-11 Jul 04	Physical Fit Test/ Ancillary Training
07-08 Aug 04	Phase I ORE (ACC/IG SAV) /Silver Flag-CE
11-12 Sep 04	9th AF Stan-Eval Insp/Family Day/Dining Out
02-03 Oct 04	Deployment/Ancillary Training
06-07 Nov 04	Phase I ORE (dress rehearsal)
11-12 Dec 04	Ancillary Training

Attention Rifle and Pistol Teams!

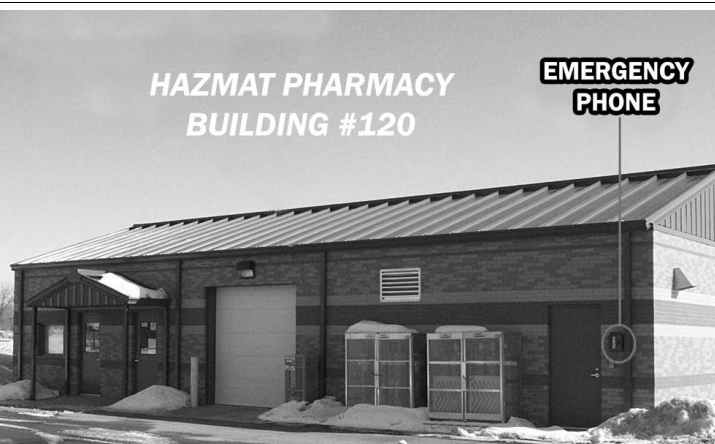
The 25th Annual Adjutant General's Combat Rifle, Pistol and Light Machine Gun Championship Matches are scheduled for the 23rd thru the 25th of April. We are looking for volunteers to participate in and represent the 174th Fighter Wing in this year's event. The 174th has participated in this match for most of the past 8 years and have done very well against the rest of the military units in the state. The teams consist of up to 12 members for each Rifle and Pistol teams and teams of two each for the Light Machine Gun. If you are interested please contact Capt James Oaksford @ ext. 453 or SMS Mark Shearer @ ext. 817.

Defensive Driving Course

When: 8 May 2004 **Time:** 0830-1530 **Where:** Bldg 174/Wing Conference Room. Please call for reservations. Class size is limited to 40. At the door, based on seats available. Federal, Active Duty, Reserve & Guard military employees and their family members are eligible to attend. Successful completion of this New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Certified Course qualifies the participant for the NYS Insurance and Point Reduction Programs. **Cost:** \$30.00 (cash or check). POC: SMS John Martineau: 454-6143.

New Emergency Phone on Base

NOTE: While fueling a vehicle at the 174th Motor pools fuel pumps, should a fire or emergency occur, there is a new EMERGENCY phone located across the street. It is mounted on the front of building 120 (HAZZ-MAT PHARMACY). This phone will automatically dial the Security Police when the handset is removed from its cradle, so you can report the incident.



The New EMERGENCY phone mounted on the front of building 120 (HAZZ-MAT PHARMACY).

All Services Club Announcements

April UTA: Specialty drink night – serving Margarita's and Tequila Sunrises...come join in the Fiesta! BINGO!

Membership cards cost \$10 per year. If you do not have a current card, please purchase yours at the door or contact MSgt Rita Scheirer at X606. There will be a cover charge of \$3 if you do not hold a current club card. Renew yours now!

A drawing is held every Saturday night of the UTA for current club members. You must be present to win. The cash prize starts at \$25 and increases \$10 per month if we do not have a winner for that month. Show up this drill – hey you never know – this could be your lucky month. There was no winner for the March UTA.

The All Services Club will be relocating in the near future. A large part of the moving expense and building expense will be coming from our fund raising. Please remember this when we offer raffle tickets each month—a 50/50 drawing. It's your club - please support it!

We are still selling "Dog Tags" for the display in the new Club. If you would more information, you may obtain an application up at the Club or see MSgt Terri Scanlin.

Chief Master Sergeant Jesse Diaz' s Retirement Party

When: 23 April 2004 **Time:** 1830-2230 **Cost:** \$20 **Where:** American Legion Post # 787, 5575 Legionnaire Drive, Cicero NY. Contact SMSgt Gianetto (Joseph.Gianetto@nysyra.af.mil) or SMSgt Cushman (Christopher.Cushman@nysyra.af.mil) Deadline to sign-up is 14 April 2004.

Chief Master Sgt. Joe "Slim" Whitman's Retirement Party

When: 1 May 2004 **Time:** 1800 hours **Cost:** \$20 **Where:** VFW Post 3146, Lemoyne Ave, Mattydale Contact Marty Brady, Mike Will, Joe Gianetto or John Balbierer. Deadline to sign-up is 22 April 2004.

Motorcycle Safety Basic Riders Course

When: 23-24 April 2004 **Time:** 0730 – 1700 **Where:** Bldg 700/AGE Classroom Who Can Attend: Federal, Active Duty, Reserve & Guard military employees of the 174 FW, 274 ASOS, & 152 AOG. Personnel must provide their own motorcycle. This course may qualify for insurance savings, contact your insurance company. **COST:** FREE. Class size is limited to 12, act quickly this is by reservation only. POC: SMS John Martineau: 454-6143

The ESGR Bosslift is **TENTATIVELY** scheduled for Friday the 16th April 2004; if you have any questions contact Lt. Col. Maryjo Timpano at 454-6139.



"THESE ESGR BOSSLIFTS HAVE BEEN A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS! BUT I GOTTA' ADMIT THERE'S TIMES I WISH WE WERE A C-130 UNIT!"

We did it and it was a great success! It was with great pleasure and pride that we welcomed Colonel Anthony Basile, Commander, 174FW as our first guest speaker on Thursday, February 19th. Colonel Basile gave the Alumni Association a synopsis of what has taken place during the 2003 fiscal year, what is happening or about to happen for 2004 and some projected information that the Unit will be facing in 2005. We will be seeing some major changes on base with new construction and revamping of parking areas. Since 9-1-1 the nation's Home Security has been a high topic of conversation and the 174th is an important participant. We will have new state-of-the-art security systems throughout the base, with major changes to the perimeters as we know it today. Programs are being worked on now to bring the Marines on base with a new facility, Columbia College will have a new building, there will be a new Munitions Storage area, and there are hopes that the Naval Reserve Center will be incorporated in the confines of Hancock Field. There was also discussion regarding moving the Memorial Park. This is still in the plans for the near future but nothing has been finalized. Some of the questions presented that night addressed the needs of retired members and handicapped individuals. The parking lots will be redesigned to adhere to Home Security guidelines, however, at this time all areas will still be available to us i.e. ID Cards, Finance Base Exchange etc. Colonel Basile generated a lot of anticipation for the future of the Unit.

We also wish to thank Colonel Basile's wife Carol for joining him for this briefing.

Tom Terry and Tech. Sgt. Peter Terry, son and grandson of the late CMS John Terry were also welcomed to the meeting.

Our speaker for the April 15th meeting will be Mr. Mark Kirsche, of NY Life Insurance Co. He will be giving us some information on Long Term Care costs, insurance options and how to save those assets that we have worked so hard to achieve. This is an "**information only**" speaker. Mr. Kirsche will be glad to answer any questions you might have that night.

Have you been thinking about obtaining information on the TriCare Program. Well mark your calendars, because our speaker for May 20th will be Mr. Paul A. Denis, USN(Ret), who is a representative of the V.A. Medical Center. He will be speaking on the TriCare Program, its benefits and how to apply. So mark down some of your questions and bring them



Who is this masked man? Captain Gerald Taylor, Combat Support Squadron - before "Cammies".

with you to this meeting. Since it is a broad topic, Mr. Denis most likely will be addressing our organization on more than one occasion. Spouse's are more than welcome to join you. There will be no speakers for June – July –August meetings.

Taps:

Dr. Harold Kletchka, died 6 March 2004. Dr. Kletchka was a flight surgeon and went with the Unit to Phalsbourg, France. Condolences may be sent to his sister, Barbara Kletchka, 1925 Noble Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55422.

Remember to please contact the base, myself or Chaplain Whiting if you receive information on someone passing. We rely on you greatly! His email is deacondon@worldnet.att.net and telephone is

(315) 699-0215.

Sick Call:

Gary Berberich, Alumni Assn Secretary, has been recuperating from carpal tunnel surgery. He is doing great. Cards may be sent to 8176 Mantova Rd, Clay, NY 13041 **Charles "Charlie" Metras** is undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatment and will be undergoing surgery on his esophagus. We wish him the very best and he can be reached at 7179 Rosewood Circle, N. Syracuse, NY 13212 or clmetras@msn.com.

News :

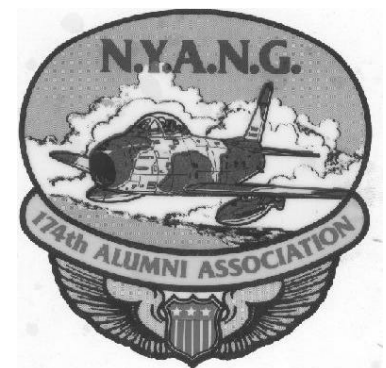
The Alumni Picnic – will be Saturday, August 14th at the NCO Club.
Thanksgiving Dinner – will November 18th at Cicero American Legion
Frank Duester will be working with a committee on these events. More information will be in future issues of the En-Garde as we finalize details.

NOTICE: Alumni dues letters have been sent out in the mail. Many are close to 90-day grace period for expiration. Please respond ASAP.

Flag cases are available to the family of a deceased **Association member** at no cost. Please contact any Board Member or officer if you wish to have one. If you are **not a member** and wish to purchase one, contact SMS Joe Giannetto at Ext 404. Cost for flag cases is \$37.00.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be April 15th 2004 at the Base All Services Club at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. Come on out and BRING ANOTHER ALUMNI FRIEND....we'd love to see you.

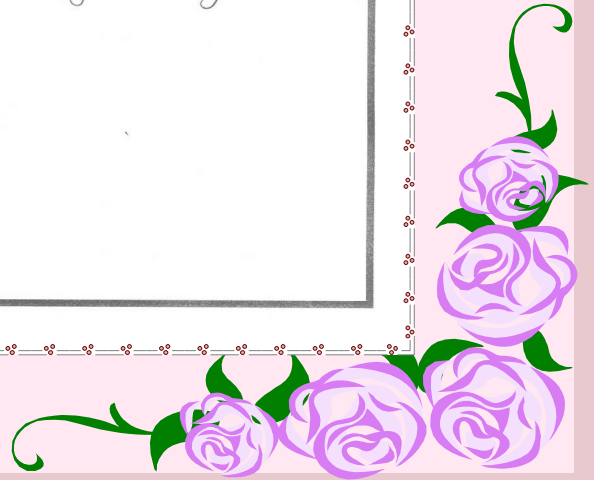




Dear Family of the 174th ~ 23 Jan 04

Words are inadequate to express
how honored and proud we were to
see so many of you attend my
husband John's wake and funeral.
Needless to say his heart belonged
to his family but a part of it always
belonged to the 174th.

Thank you for being there for us,
Lillian Terry + Family



ENGARDE

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Headquarters
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Hancock Field
Syracuse, New York, 13211-7099

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